

## Stormwater and Pollution



Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. It flows from rooftops, over paved areas, bare soil, and sloped lawns washing pollutants from streets, construction sites, and land into storm sewers and ditches. Eventually, the storm sewers and ditches empty the polluted stormwater directly into streams and rivers with no treatment. This is known as stormwater pollution.

### We see it during every storm

- automotive fluids creating a colored sheen mixed with rain or snowmelt on parking lots,
- trash, cigarette butts, animal waste, and lawn fertilizers / pesticides washed into storm drains.

### You Can Identify a Storm Sewer

by the grated drains found along roadways and within some swale areas. They collect excess stormwater from rain and snowmelt that does not soak into the ground, and convey it to streams, rivers, and other local waterbodies.



***"Only Rain Down the Drain"***

## The Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County

*A partnership to protect water  
quality*

A number of communities and entities within Monroe County have joined together to develop a stormwater management program to protect our waterways and enhance our quality of life. The goal of the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County is to utilize regional collaboration to identify existing resources and develop programs to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater pollution.

The Coalition meets monthly to work collectively on developing and implementing a stormwater management program that complies with New York State's Phase II Stormwater Regulations.



Brighton	Ogden
Brockport	Parma
Chili	Penfield
Churchville	Perinton
Clarkson	Pittsford (T)
East Rochester	Pittsford (V)
Fairport	Riga
Gates	Rochester Pure
Greece	Waters District/
Hamlin	City of Rochester
Henrietta	Spencerport
Hilton	SUNY Brockport
Irondequoit	Sweden
Mendon	Webster (T)
Monroe County	Webster (V)
Dept. of Transportation	

## Lawn Care, Landscaping and Applying Pesticides....

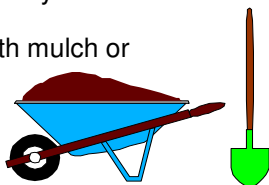
### How to Protect Water Quality



The Stormwater Coalition of  
Monroe County  
**& You,**  
*Protecting Water Quality*

## Lawn Care and Landscaping

- Have soil tested and fertilize only as needed.
- Cover and contain topsoil with mulch or suitable cover during installation to reduce run-off.
- Plant rain gardens of native drought- and pest-resistant plants to collect and filter rainwater.
- Plant vegetated filter areas or swales to trap pollutants along streets and driveways.
- Install pervious pavement and gravel driveways to reduce stormwater runoff.
- Install vegetative buffers along streams and drainage pathways.
- Compost or mulch leaves and yard debris.
- Direct downspouts away from driveways or storm drains, or install rain barrels to collect roof runoff.

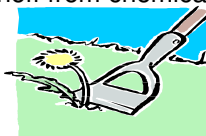


- Sweep up litter and debris from driveways and parking lots rather than hosing debris into storm drains.
- Install and maintain sediment and erosion control measures during soil disturbing activities.



## Pesticide Alternatives

- Longer lawns are healthier, more drought resistant, and will discourage growth of many common weeds. Set your mower to cut at 2 1/2 to 3 inches. Mow often, leave clippings on lawn, and do not cut more than 1/3 of the lawn's height at one time.
- Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to reduce the need for pesticides, and thereby reduce runoff from chemical applications.



## Pesticide Applications

*Everything you apply to the lawn can potentially contaminate surface and ground waters. If you must apply a pesticide, follow these guidelines.*

### Before Application

- Comply with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation pesticide application regulations, and observe all directions on the container label.
- Use proper pesticide notification signage and comply with neighbor notification regulations. See [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov) (click on *Public Health*) or call **753-PEST** for more information.
- Use the least toxic pesticide that will do the job. Pesticides with the word "caution" on their label are less toxic than those labeled "warning" or "danger."
- Fill pesticide containers on gravel surfaces, away from storm drains, sewers or ditches.



- Avoid applications during windy conditions (especially spraying) or when rain is forecast.

### During Application

- Use lawn and garden chemicals carefully and sparingly. Avoid blanket applications by treating only affected areas.
- Keep chemicals and fertilizers off paved surfaces.
- Avoid using chemicals near waterways or storm drains.
- Apply only what is needed.



### After Application, Spills and Storage

- Triple rinse empty pesticide and fertilizer containers before disposal.
- Store chemicals away from floor drains.
- In the event of a small pesticide spill, do not hose down the area with water. Wearing rubber gloves, sprinkle absorbent material (e.g., sawdust or kitty litter) over the spill, transfer the material into a sturdy plastic bag, close tightly, and store in a safe place until it can be disposed of at a Household Hazardous Waste Facility.
- Dispose of old or unwanted chemicals, or clean-up materials only at a Household Hazardous Waste Facility. In Monroe County call **753-7600** to schedule an appointment for disposal.

For further information on IPM, Lawn Care, and other water quality questions visit the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County on-line at:

**[www.thestormwatercoalition.org](http://www.thestormwatercoalition.org)**  
or call 585-753-5472

Thank you for helping preserve and protect water quality in Monroe County.